

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SS-15 SP-02 PM-04 L-03 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6970

INFO USMISSION NATO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USCINCEUR

USDOCOSOUTH

USLOSACLANT

USNMR SHAPE

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

S E C R E T MADRID 6645

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, NATO, SP

SUBJECT: SPAIN AND NATO

REF: MADRID 5586

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1. DURING CONVERSATION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER OREJA

IN SAN SEBASTIAN AUGUST 30 ON A VARIETY OF TOPICS (SEPTELS), I REFERRED TO OUR CONVERSATION OF JULY 20 REPORTED REFTEL AND INQUIRED WHETHER HE HAD MADE ANY DECISION ON HOW WE SHOULD PROCEED IN OUR DISCUSSIONS ON STEPS WHICH MIGHT BE TAKEN TO MOVE SPAIN TOWARD A CLOSER ASSOCIATION WITH NATO. I MENTIONED THAT BASED ON OUR PREVIOUS CONVERSATION OUR NATO PERM REP HAD INFORMED SELECTED ALLIES OF OUR APPROACH AND THAT HE HAD RECEIVED A GENERALLY POSITIVE, THOUGH IN SOME CASES A NUANCED, RESPONSE.

2. OREJA SAID THAT THE KING, PRIME MINISTER AND HE BELIEVED THAT ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT FOREIGN POLICY QUESTIONS SPAIN MUST DEAL WITH IS ITS GREATER ORIENTATION TOWARD NATO. THE SPANISH MILITARY HAVE TOO LONG BEEN LOOKING TOWARD THE SOUTH--IN MOROCCO, SAHARA, ETC.--AND IT WAS VITAL THAT SPAIN LOOK NORTHWARD. THE SPANISH NAVY AND AIR FORCE HAD MORE EXPERIENCE WITH WESTERN DEFENSE AND NATO BECAUSE OF THEIR CLOSER ASSOCIATION WITH US AND FAVORED SUCH ORIENTATION. HOWEVER, THE SPANISH ARMY CONTINUES TO LOOK WITH GREAT SUSPICION ON NATO AND FEARS THAT A CLOSER RELATIONSHIP WITH NATO WILL HAVE ADVERSE EFFECT ON COHESION AND DISCIPLINE OF ARMY. OREJA SAID THAT SPANISH ARMY CONCERN RE NATO IS REFLECTED VERY CLEARLY IN ATTITUDE OF FIRST VICE PRESIDENT OF GOVERNMENT, GEN. SANTIAGO MENDIVIL. OREJA INDICATED THAT PARTICULAR EFFORTS MUST BE MADE TO BRING ARMY AROUND TOWARD A MORE FAVORABLE VIEW OF NATO.

3. OREJA SUGGESTED THAT LATER IN SEPTEMBER AND PRIOR TO HIS VISIT TO US WE HAVE ANOTHER DISCUSSION ON SPAIN AND NATO. HE HOPED TO BE IN A BETTER POSITION THEN TO DISCUSS SOME OF THE POINTS I HAD RAISED WITH HIM IN JULY.

STABLER

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